

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 09927 120842Z

12

ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3834
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S E C R E T TEHRAN 9927

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TAGS: PFOR, EAID, IR, EG
SUB: IRAN/EGYPT RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 8010

1. SHAH RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE AHMAD ABU ESMAIL MORNING OF OCTOBER 11 ALONG WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE HUSHANG ANSARY AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR EZZAD SULEIMAN. GOI WAS INFORMED JUST ONE WEEK AGO THAT EGYPTIAN FINANCE MINISTER DESIRED TO VISIT TEHRAN. THIS CAME AT MOST INCONVENIENT TIME FOR ANSARY WHO WAS HOSTING BRITISH CHANCELLOR OF EXCHEQUER DENIS HEALEY AND HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION OF BRITISH BANKERS AT IRAN/ UK FINANCE CONFERENCE. GOI TURNED OUT ITS TOP FINANCE OFFICIALS FOR ROUND OF TALKS ON EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH EGYPT.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF OCTOBER 11 AUDIENCE FOR OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS, SHAH MENTIONED THAT RECENT EGYPTIAN VISITOR (EITHER ASHRAF MARWAN OR ESMAIL) HAD INFORMED HIM THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WAS PREPARED TO PURCHASE ARMS (SUCH AS HELICOPTERS) FROM IRAN ONCE AN ARMS INDUSTRY HAS BEEN STARTED HERE UNDER CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS. THE SHAH POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS NEGOTIATING FOR MILITARY CO-PRODUCTION WITH BOTH AMERICAN AND BRITISH FIRMS. HE CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY STATING "WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS WITH EGYPT". HE MADE NO SPECIFIC

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SECRET

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 09927 120842Z

REFERENCE TO IRANIAN PARTICIPATION IN FINANCIAL LOAN

FOR EGYPT, AND THERE WAS NO PROPER OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE
BECAUSE OF THE COMPOSITION OF AMERICAN AND IRANIAN OFFICIALS
ATTENDING THE AUDIENCE.
HELMS

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NNN

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